

PREFACE

In 1927 the late Dr J. G. de Lint, lecturer in History of Medicine at the University of Leyden, stated that up to that time little bibliographical work had been done on Boerhaave. This statement appeared in the preface to the "Short-title Catalogue of books written and edited by Herman Boerhaave", compiled by Menno Hertzberger, with the assistance of E. J. van der Linden (Amsterdam 1927). The compiler made it quite clear that his catalogue should be considered solely as a preliminary one.

In the 30 odd years that have elapsed since the appearance of this important bibliography, which has proved so useful to many a student of the great Leyden professor, some others have devoted their energies to the same task.

In 1938 the Belgian professor, A. J. J. van de Velde, produced a bibliography of Boerhaave, which, however, appeared in Dutch in a Belgian journal *Dodonaeus* and has thus drawn only scant attention. It is to be regretted that Hertzberger's catalogue seems not to have been known to him.

In 1950 F. W. Gibbs went to a great deal of trouble to compile a new bibliography for his thesis at the University of London on "The life and work of Herman Boerhaave, with particular reference to his influence in Chemistry". Unfortunately this careful study, which gives much new information, has not been published and I am most grateful to Dr Gibbs and the University authorities for allowing me to consult it and to quote from it.

During my studies on Boerhaave it became increasingly clear to me that a systematic bibliography of Boerhaave, based on recent dates and provided with a short introduction and some notes, could be of help to anyone occupied with the work to the greatest physician of the 18th century or who likes to feel his way about in a book bearing the name Boerhaave.

I have tried to give such a work. The manner in which the whole is built up is explained in the introduction. Bibliographical work may seem to many a very dull and rather thankless task. It should be conceded that it is tedious — especially in this case where so

many spurious editions exist — and that it lacks a certain charm inherent in biographical studies. However, it has to be done, and as a matter of fact it has given more satisfaction than I supposed it would as well as giving a better insight into the various and restless activities of Boerhaave, and the way in which his influence has spread throughout Europe.

Of course this satisfaction will be very much greater should it become clear to me that this little volume really will be of some use and help to others who share my veneration for the very learned, good and wise Boerhaave. Then I shall feel gratefully rewarded for my labours, taken in many hours spread from the occupied time of a clinical teacher.

May I end with a *capitatio benevolentiae*. I hope that it will be forgiven one who is no bibliographer by profession that not all minor bibliographical dates are given and that only the libraries which possess some particularly rare edition are mentioned. It also seemed unnecessary to render the whole text of the title-pages, as for instance Van de Velde often did ; the repeated enumeration of all Boerhaave's functions, etc., seemed unnecessary and must have a tiring effect.

Also, I am firmly convinced that this bibliography is not complete and that other editions than those mentioned here will come to light. Any constructive criticism and amplification will, therefore, be welcomed heartily.

Finally, allow me to express my thanks to everyone — librarians and others — who have helped me in this work.

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